

"TYPHOON PEPING"

1,900 stranded in Bicol, Samar

LEGASPI CITY — MORE THAN 1,900 passengers were stranded in different parts in Bicol and Samar as typhoon "Peping" approached and the Coast Guard suspended all shipping and ferry crossings in the region yesterday, civil defense officials said.

The Office of Civil Defense in Legaspi said 37 passenger liners, 45 cargo trucks and 24 small vehicles were stranded in different parts of Bicol, while civil defense officials elsewhere said four liners, 12 trucks and nine light vehicles were stranded in Allen, Northern Samar.

The ferry service connecting Matnog in Sorsogon and Allen was suspended because of the typhoon, which a bulletin from Pagasa yesterday afternoon said was about 420 km east-northeast of Legaspi City with sustained winds of 129 kph near the center gusting up to 150 kph.

It was forecast to move west-northwest at 13 kph, the weather bureau said.

Arnel Capili, regional director of the OGD in Legaspi said that the number of stranded passengers and vehicles could still increase within the next days unless the typhoon were to die down or veer away.

In Matnog, Sorsogon, 1,150 passengers were stranded. In Tabaco City, 249; in Pilar, Sorsogon, 250; Piodman, Albay, 20; Virac, Catanduanes, 18; Camarines Sur, 9; Dilao, Sorsogon 30; and Baco, Masbate R.

At least 200 people were stranded in Allen, Northern Samar.

Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Caniculate Norte and the Samar region were under signal number two and classes in these provinces were suspended.

Although there were no reports

of flooding, the OGD has been coordinating with all provincial disaster coordinating councils to continue to monitor places prone to flooding such as the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur and Caniculate Norte.

In Tabaco port, at least 120 people aboard three motorized passenger buses arrived yesterday morning. The passengers, mostly teachers from Tabaco City, came from Barangays Langatan and Tumbiligaw in Capuray Island, Masang, Albay.

The teachers had gone to the island early in the morning not knowing a typhoon was approaching but headed back immediately after classes were cancelled as their families were in Tabaco. GEFrancie G. Aranda with reports from Job R. Balon, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Jose A. Gubina, PDI Visayas Bureau.

WWII bomb kills 3 in Cavite

CAMP MONTPELIER, LAGUNA — THREE CIVILIAN fishermen were killed yesterday when a World War II bomb they were trying to pry open exploded.

Chief Inspector Mario Reyes, Manila police chief, identified the victims as Arday Landa, 45, Francisco Peralta, 39, and Francisco Peralta, 40, all residents of Barangay Wawa, Laguna.

Reyes said the three were on board a fishing boat owned by Gerry Nagat when the explosion took place at around 11 a.m.

He said the victims were working off the metal cover of the bomb when it exploded.

Reyes could not say how many kilos the bomb weighed but described it as high class.

He said the fishermen were apparently trying to obtain explosive material inside the bomb and use it to blast fish.

"Since we started our campaign against dynamite fishing, transnational fishermen have had a hard time getting dynamite. Instead, they use material from old bombs in their illegal fishing activities," Reyes told the press.

He said fishermen died and searched for the bomb shrapnel at the bottom of a sea near off Caido. Marlon Reyes, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.

Villanueva heroics power Red Bull past Talk 'N Text

By Jane Hansen
ALBUQUERQUE CITY—An amazingly agonizing five-minute slug, Queen Maria Grace was fortunate enough to have an extra 10 minutes willing to do his job.

Villanueva stepped into Grace's door and exploded Red Bull's lead into a 51-50 shot in the final minutes of the game.

With My Colleen-PBB Points Center on his right in the Palace Center, Grace up with support in the Palace Center, Villanueva brought in 17 of his 25 points in the second half on top of 17 rebounds, seven assists, seven blocks and a steal in putting the Red Bulls to their last victory in 11 games.

Villanueva's play was one of his best and he took the college in his last game.

Grace's mistake game showed him, which began after he missed his last shot in the first half.

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Zalameda, Arevalo dispute finals seat

By Marc Anthony Reyes
ALBUQUERQUE CITY—Zalameda and Arevalo have been named the top two players in the Philippines' National Basketball Association (PBA) Finals.

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RP aerobics team land short in Asian indoor

By Jane Hansen
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Bowlers make cut

ALBUQUERQUE CITY—The Philippine Bowling Association (PBA) announced the results of the 2005 PBA Bowling Championships.

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SPORTSWATCH

UST, 3 others share badminton lead
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Daytime derby set at SJC

The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) announced the results of the 2005 PBA Daytime Derby.

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Big Roligan bash Dec. 5

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GOLF SCHOLARS

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Wizards seek victory No. 4

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Zalameda, Arevalo dispute finals seat

Two Pinoys killed in Iraq bombing

TWO FILIPINO WORKERS WERE killed in a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq last week and preparations were underway to bury their bodies in their hometowns, officials said yesterday.

German Nixdorf Neoflex International deputy chief Angelo Jimenez said Philippine labor officials were in consultation with the employer and engineers of the Pinaric/Lapaz 30 and Benjie Carmona, 35, who were from Bacolod and Candonal, Mindanao, respectively.

Kansans in

Lapaz and Carmona were hired by the South Korean General Trading Co., which is based in Seoul, Seoul, and engaged in the sale of imported goods and items, Jimenez said. The company is a subsidiary of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service involved in the administration of Iraq.

US authorities had reported that the

men died on Nov. 11 "as a result of an improvised explosive device" in western Iraq, said Air Sergeant Carmona, a senior Philippine diplomat in Kuwait.

Their remains were flown to Kuwait and would be repatriated next week, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

4,000 in US facilities

About 4,000 Filipinos are employed in US military camps across Iraq, mostly in cooks and maintenance personnel. Many workers have slipped into Iraq from neighboring countries despite the Philippine government's ban on employment in the country.

An advocacy group for overseas Filipinos workers, Wikipos, said about a dozen Filipino workers have been killed in Iraq since 2003.

The Philippines learned of the deaths of workers in Iraq after it was reported

that Filipino train driver Imelda de la Cruz in July 2004. "In case his wife, Manila, pointed the Philippines' department for the early withdrawal of its small peacekeeping contingent — a decision strongly criticized in Washington and other allies, but applauded at home."

A second Filipino soldier by Iraq militia was killed in Iraq after almost eight months in captivity.

Iraqi law stays

Labor Secretary Gerardo Sicat said workers' security that the last workers going to Iraq was likely to be "permanently" as a result of the war was not a security concern to consider.

"As long as we find that they are not safe, they will not be allowed to go there," he added.

The Sicat said that based on reports, Carmona was an active Wikipos member and would have

been involved in life insurance, first burial and other benefits by the government.

Lapaz, meanwhile, was reportedly no longer an active member because he did not renew his membership and had not returned to the country for several years since.

However, even if the OFWs were not active members of Wikipos, Jimenez said they would still stand for the repatriation expenses of the new victims.

He added they are also coordinating with the foreign principals of the victims for their insurance claims which was raised under the United States in favor of Benjie.

The remains of Lapaz and Carmona are already at the Al Fakhri hospital in Kuwait City and would be repatriated as soon as the Philippine government gets the clearance. AFP

Black report from German doing



Philippine Air Force pilot who was arrested in the Middle East is escorted by US military personnel at an airport terminal.

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Seaman lands in jail for bomb threat in plane

A FILIPINO SEAMAN WAS DETAINED AFTER allegedly threatening to trigger a bomb on a flight from Hong Kong to Manila providing a US Air Agency International Airport official said.

Police authorities at the Cebu Pacific Building 747 reported seeing Gary Maudsley, 28, an expat, but was "going to give some thing that will explode," said the security chief, retired Brig. Gen. Danilo Mendoza.

The man said Maudsley, 28, a seaman from Tula, Cebu, wanted to give up a bag he was holding. They had to check him in his bag, but he refused to hand over the bag, said the chief.

The crew immediately returned the plane's captain to the airport and the seaman was taken to the airport. Maudsley was taken to the airport and the seaman was taken to the airport.

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The World

Editor: Lawrence B. Goss

US House leader calls for Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON—A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL leader on defense called for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, as he rejected on Thursday Bush administration attacks on war critics and raised bipartisan pressure for a new policy.

"The US cannot accomplish anything for Iraq unless it is a free to come from here," said Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, the senior Democrat on the House of Representatives subcommittee that oversees defense spending and one of his party's top critics on military issues.

Murtha's remarks followed a string of sharp attacks by President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney against critics of their Iraq war policy and

boasting of proven intelligence. Murtha, House speaker Dennis McClellan, in a statement, said with Bush in Paris, South Korea, and Murtha in a respected foreign and political "as it is building that he is endorsing the policy position of Michael Moore and others liberal wing of the Democratic Party." Murtha is a liberal movie producer and sharp Bush critic whose documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" attacked the Iraq war.

The case of an historic democratic decision to Iraq, is not the

time to surrender to the war. After seeing the situation, we remain baffled...murtha does to explain how coming from Iraq makes America safer," McClellan said.

Murtha, a defense hawk, denounced Vietnam War veterans and retired Murtha, called, made a reference to the draft of the Vietnam War. Murtha, a liberal, said, "I like guys who go to the front lines and they're not people who are, and they don't like to hear sugge-

ries about what needs to be done," Murtha said.

His call came two days after the Republican-controlled House overwhelmingly passed a resolution asking the administration for a plan to end the war, but rejected a Democratic resolution demanding a timetable from Bush.

Senate Democrats have likely lost a vote of 50-50, and the House of Representatives of 2003 at a time of war with its campaign against war critics.

WASHINGTON BUREAU

sen. Edward Kennedy said Murtha's "pure, unadorned, free man-giving" and the country was now Murtha, who supported the Iraq war but criticized Bush's handling of it, urged the administration to pull out US troops as soon as it could be done. Kennedy estimated that would take about six months.

Republicans lashed out against the lawmaker who has served in Congress since 1979 and been a vocal defense adviser to presidents of both parties. Murtha

Protesters clash with riot police near Apec venue

MUSAN, SOUTH KOREA—SOUTH KOREAN police fired water cannons to keep protesting anti-globalization protesters away from a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders here (Y).

Some 10,000 protesters gathered police close to the summit venue where US President George W. Bush and 20 other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum leaders were debating lowering barriers to trade and investment and other issues.

Protesters faced when a group of around 100 protesters broke away from the main anti-Apec demonstration and tried to push through police lines on the way to the summit venue, witnesses said.

Police responded by firing bursts from their water cannons to force demonstrators away from the venue and to clear the way for the summit.

Police officers said they expected a crowd of up to 50,000, and used tear gas and water cannons to block off roads around the summit venue.

But police in full body armor wielding clubs were not too far from the protesters.

Chanting and US slogans and waving anti-Apec banners reading "No Apec, No Bush" and "Honesty First, No Lies," protesters and they were angry at the South Korean government's plans to open its markets to Asian foreign investors.

"We oppose free opening," shouted protesters from across the country opposed to World Trade Organization agreements opening the Korean market to foreign investors.

Two protesters remained inside the park area by drinking water to protest at globalization.

Security officials sent 40,000 police, troops and riot police agents have been notified to guard the Apec leaders until appeals from officials for demonstrators to keep the peace.

"We are facing the huge pressure," a spokesman for the Democratic said earlier.

Protest leaders said on the day they were hoping for a turnout of 100,000 in the park area which police transformed into a virtual fortress by sending a ring of riot police agents a wide perimeter around the summit venue in the center.

AFP

French police say all clear after 3 weeks of riots

PARIS—FRENCH POLICE DECLARED THE all-clear Thursday after three weeks of rioting which has left the government alarmed, injured and costing around 100 million euros.

The national police service said there was a "total" to a total of around 100,000 in Paris' suburbs, with just 90 rioters caught nationwide.

That figure was within the average nightly range seen before the riots, France's most and most violent in nearly four decades, broke out on Oct 23.

A wave of emergency remains in place, after the parliament voted to extend by three months a law giving police the right to impose curfews and riot police measures.

In all, since the start of the trouble, 9,381 rioters have been detained and 1,752 people apprehended.

The peak of the violence was the night of Nov. 6, when 1,638 rioters were burned, shot, and under the state of emergency imposed by President Jacques Chirac's government, it has gradually subsided.

The Paris region's rioting has ended and authorities in other cities said Thursday it was likely a return to normal after just eight days were banned curfews, with the police in Athens, south of Paris, was also hit by rioting.

The police chief has been left struggling to explain the reasons that fueled the riots, which spread around more major towns and cities, creating the worst urban violence since the 1960s student riots.

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said Thursday that "there never to be political or financial interests of such extreme violence." AFP

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INQUIRER *Visayas*

By **Raf Padilla**
Solo City

ILURO IS NOT GIVEN known for its people's wealth and fine clothes. Above and beyond these trademarks is the longer's deep piety.

A worship hall for the Marian devotion is a low one-story structure with a simple facade and a single entrance. But the longos have made it a shrine, in such a way that the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her exquisite title, with a fitting tribute and pomp.

Long lines of Catholic faithful bring their longos to every religious procession and a big number park the church where they are venerated as the Mother of God.

But the women, in Solo, Marikina City, is not only Solo. It is the heart of Mary's devotion, but all throughout the country.

How the longos developed their strong faith and piety is a story that is long and full of many details. But the longos have made it a shrine, in such a way that the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her exquisite title, with a fitting tribute and pomp.

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The St. Clement's Church, seat of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, in Solo City, Solo City, is presently undergoing renovation.

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Woman skirts poverty and blindness

By **Roberto G. Barroga**
Solo City

SHE PERISHED HER mother near the top of her class, but poverty, temporary blindness and domestic health problems prevented her from taking the education trainings by three years. When she finally took it, she was No. 2 in her class.

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MANLAW (COURTESY OF THE MANLAW FAMILY)

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Carjack suspects were still alive – TMG chief

By Marissa Barilateria,
 Lidge del Puerto and Edson Tordes Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP's Task Force Limas may have acted without consideration for human life when they still fired at the carjacking suspects although they already appeared immobilized, a member of the Commission on Human Rights said yesterday.

"It was apparent that the operatives didn't have any consideration for the value of human life," said CHR vice-chairman Wilfredo Soriano after CHR Chief Supl. Aquino Aguirre and

Pang City police chief Sr. Insp. Wences installed at the CHR yesterday.

The CHR is conducting human investigations of the alleged Nov. 7 shooting between three suspected carjackers and TMG operatives at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City after video footage showed police still firing at the suspects even if they appeared already dead.

In his testimony, Aguirre admitted that Francis Maranan and Anthony Dela Cruz were still alive when they were fired at by policemen.

But Aguirre said that one of the suspects was reaching for a gun, prompting the police to fire at the seemingly immo-

bilized suspect.

"The justification available was self-defense... [that] the person [suspect] the suspects were armed and dangerous involved a lot of uncertainty," said Soriano.

Soriano said he video footage by UNTV channel UNTV whose officers are near the site of the shooting showed that the suspected carjacker no longer posed any threat to the police operatives.

"This is not prejudging the case, but the UNTV video showed that the suspects were already immobilized," Soriano said.

Soriano said the names of the police-

men who told Aguirre about Maranan allegedly reaching for a gun at the backseat of the suspect's car, which is already in the records submitted by the police to the CHR.

"I'm not yet at liberty to tell you that," Soriano said when asked about the identity of the Maranan men that Maranan.

Soriano said that all 14 operatives have been investigated by the CHR and, as per Interior and Local Government Sec. Angelo Reyes' assurance of full cooperation, are expected to give their respective versions of what happened that night.

Medina said that the TMG had coordi-

nated its operations with the Eastern Police District that has jurisdiction of the Pasig City police station.

The police are conducting a parallel investigation of the shooting incident.

On Monday, members of the human rights body created by the Internal Affairs Service will view the recorded UNTV video of the shooting incident.

"We will view the video on Monday," said Is. Inspector Romeo Marangan, the designated spokesperson of the IAS unit.

"We have requested the UNTV management to allow us to view the original footage," he

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Super!

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